

Virginia League Opens Under Ideal Conditions---Colts Win

SPHYGHALSKI'S ERROR PAVES WAY TO COLT VICTORY

They Call Him "Spy" Now to Save Time and Space.

"DUCKY" EBERTS SCORES FIRST RUN

Strain Opposes Richmond in Opening Clash and Holds Goobers to Four Safeties. Crowd Enjoys Rare Sport. Play in Petersburg This Afternoon.

Results in Virginia League

Table with 4 columns: Club, Won, Lost, P.C. Rows include Richmond, Norfolk, Roanoke, Newport News, Petersburg.

Where They Play To-Day. Richmond at Petersburg. Newport News at Roanoke. Portsmouth at Norfolk.

By Gus Malbert. Ivan Sphyghalski pulled the veil aside at the unveiling of the Virginia League yesterday—meaning that Richmond won. The score was 3 to 0.

Ordinarily something like 10,000 fans have a hand in this rather impressive ceremony. Billed properly and offered as the one real attraction of a period normally punctuated by equinoctial storms, the opening of the Virginia League has heretofore not been a one-man affair.

But Ivan was very much upstage, insisted upon the calcium, and, without wishing to offend the ultra sensitive, hogged the show.

Everything drifted along nicely for some several seconds. News that Mr. McTague, who was scheduled to officiate as umpire in Portsmouth, had sprained his ankle and would be unable to appear had not caused a single jar. Just by one stroke of the pen, President Boatwright, who arrived upon the scene early, split the double act in Richmond and sent Mr. Kennedy to the seaport village in place of the injured individual, leaving Colgate to man the ship alone.

Ducky Eberts, answering the strident message, "Batter up!" walked to the center and lifted his club with that nonchalance which has made him the envy of many younger seekers for fame. Without narrating at length, the arrival of Ducky, accompanied by the united shout of all that noble assemblage, brought the end of the 3 to 0 engagement and gave Ivan, with fangs pulled, the chance to distinguish himself.

Not waiting for the formalities, such as introductions and announcements extraordinary, Ducky smote at the first offering. It was by no means doing justice to either Clyde Richmond, the highly heralded product of swamp-puddle, which is in Washington, or Mr. Colgate, who had been absolutely realistic in realizing that it was a championship battle, and that Mr. Colgate did not find an opportunity to test his weather eye, which is likewise his only apparent method of earning a livelihood. Returning briefly to Ducky and his part in making Mr. Sphyghalski famous, he rolled the leather neatly and softly toward third base. Mr. Spy—that's his official name to save both space and the good nature of us scribes—did the emblem of purity just as it should have been gathered under all legitimate rules, but he failed in lifting it to Mr. Barnett, who was awaiting its rival at first. This it gives us the opportunity not alone to dramatize Mr. Spy, but to place Ducky at second base. A sacrifice fly and a sacrifice hit gave Eberts the chance to score.

From now on the story runs smoothly. Richmond showed a team better prepared than the one brought over from Petersburg. Of course, it is barely possible that Heinie Busch may spring something new this afternoon when the seat of battle is transferred to Goobertown. But that is quite aside from the question. Richmond won. Mr. Spy's glaring mistake in trying to land the sphere in the bleachers instead of into the waiting glove of Mr. Barnett started it all. Eberts, on second, managed to stroll nonchalantly to third, while Connie Bresnahan was giving Richmond, the experient, an opportunity to handle a sacrifice. Manager Steven Griffin, nursing his new uniform and anxious to start something, sent a magnificent loft toward Spencer in center, and Ducky came across with the first run of the season and with the one count needed to win.

Steve showed his master mind in selecting Charlie Strain as the opponent of Busch's crowd. Those of us who remember the second game of 1912 in Petersburg, will recall how Charlie was able to send every death-seeking gunman back to the resting place absolutely conquered. He repeated. That tells it all briefly. In all the nine frames, during which Petersburg sent a grilling fire toward the Colt defense, just one individual had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with third station. His name happens to be Blackstone, and he was stopped without doing a damage to his physical prowess. Not one single count could the Goobers push over.

In addition to holding the enemy scoreless, Charlie, one of our very own



"Ducky" Eberts scoring in first inning of the game yesterday. (Photos by Foster). Brenegan waiting to receive the throw from Spy.

WHEN FIRST RUN WAS SCORED

JAMESTOWN MEET COMES TO AN END

Large Crowd in Attendance, but Card Is Not Attractive.

Norfolk, Va., April 17.—With ideal weather and a large crowd in attendance, the spring meeting of the Jamestown Jockey Club came to an end today. The card for the closing day was not attractive, but in five of the six races favorites won.

Table with 4 columns: Player, R, H, O, A, E. Rows include Eberts, Brenahan, Griffin, Busch, Strain, Laval, Piers, Newton, Lusk, Strain.

Score by innings. Richmond 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 3. Petersburg 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0. Summary: Double plays—Piers to Griffin. Left on base—Richmond, 5; Petersburg, 4. Sacrifice hits—Brenahan, 1; Griffin, 1. Two-base hits—Lusk, 1; Strain, 1. Base on balls—Strain, 2; off Richmond, 4. Hit by pitched ball—Laval. Struck out—By Strain, 6; by Richmond, 3. Time of game—1:45. Umpire—Colgate.

DAVIDSON NO MATCH FOR VIRGINIA TEAM

Orange and Blue Men Get Total of Seventeen Hits Off Two Pitchers.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Charlottesville, Va., April 17.—Virginia defeated Davidson to-day, 13 to 1, enjoying quite a batting matinee at the expense of the Presbyterians. Morrow, who started off on the mound for Davidson, did well for three innings, but weakened in the fourth and was yanked in the sixth. Osteen, who blanked Washington and Lee yesterday, then took the burden, and was pounded even harder. In the eighth inning he was landed on for six hits, yielding as many runs.

Gammorn, a young southpaw, held the Tarheels to four scattered hits and was backed up by almost perfect fielding. Blackwith, put up a brilliant game at second. In the third inning he robbed Morrow of a hit by a clever pickup and quick throw to Finlay, and in the seventh inning he knocked down Klutz's hot grounder, heading off the runner at first. Captain Finlay accepted thirteen chances at first, laced

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

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Sixth race—three-year-old conditions, five and a half furlongs—Discovery, 98; Fred Levy, 118; Exton, 105; Lysander, 110; Early Light, 113.

*Apprentice allowance claimed. Weather clear; track heavy.

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